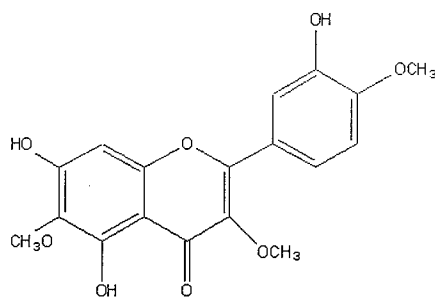


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A method for ~~inhibiting elongation of melanocytic dendrites~~whitening skin comprising:

a step of applying Centaureidin represented by the following formula and/or a salt thereof to the skin of an individual in need ~~thereof~~of skin whitening, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:



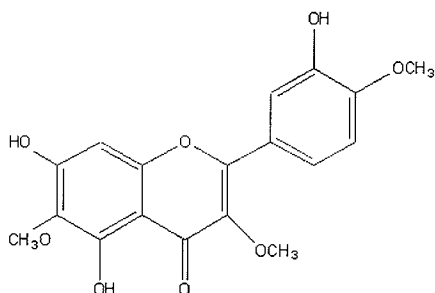
8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The method for ~~inhibiting elongation of melanocytic dendrites~~whitening skin according to claim 7, wherein the skin has ~~dyschromatosis~~dark complexion on which tyrosinase inhibitors have insufficient effect.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) A method for whitening skin~~inhibiting elongation of melanocytic dendrites~~ comprising applying a skin preparation for external use comprising 0.005 to 5% by weight of Centaureidin represented by the following formula and/or a salt thereof to an

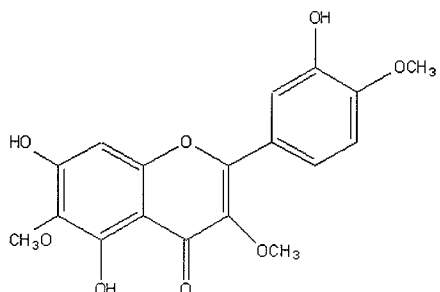
individual in need of skin whitening~~thereof~~, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:



13. (Currently amended) The method for ~~inhibiting elongation of melanocytic dendrites~~ whitening skin according to claim 12, wherein the skin preparation for external use is a cosmetic.

14. (New) A method for treating dyschromatosis comprising:

a step of applying Centaureidin represented by the following formula and/or a salt thereof to the skin of an individual in need of a treatment for dyschromatosis, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:

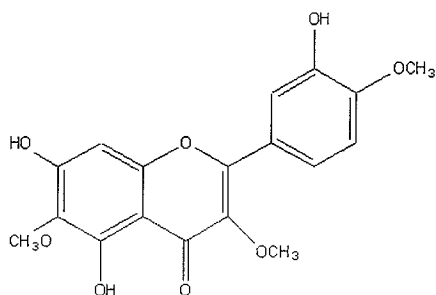


15. (New) The method for treating dyschromatosis according to claim 14, wherein the skin has dyschromatosis on which tyrosinase inhibitors have insufficient effect.

16. (New) A method for treating dyschromatosis comprising applying a skin preparation for external use comprising 0.005 to 5% by weight of Centaureidin represented by the following

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formula and/or a salt thereof to an individual in need of a treatment for dyschromatosis, whereby elongation of melanocytic dendrites is inhibited:



17. (New) The method for treating dyschromatosis according to claim 16, wherein the skin preparation for external use is a cosmetic.